

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /094 W  
-----020213 051731Z /46

R 050836Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9226  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, AF, IR  
SUBJ: AFGHAN POSITION ON HELMAND RIVER WATERS TREATY

REF: TEHRAN 6313

1. NEWSPAPERS JULY 5 PROMINENTLY CARRIED FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI'S PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 4 IN WHICH HE DENIED BBC STORY (REFTEL) THAT AFGHANISTAN GOVERNMENT IS SUSPENDING ITS ADHERENCE TO HELMAND RIVER WATERS TREATY PENDING A GENERAL REVIEW OF ALL TREATIES CONCLUDED BY DAOUD GOVERNMENT. KHALATBARI TOLD PRESS, INQUIRIES THROUGH IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN KABUL ELUCIDATED A DENIAL OF BBC REPORT BY FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLA H AMIN. KHALATBARI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING IRANIAN AMB DAVOUDI HAD BEEN TOLD THAT REPORT WAS "COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED."

2. KHALATBARI WAS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING: "WE BELIEVE  
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THAT THE REPORT BY THE BBC WAS NOTHING BUT PURE PROVOCATION, AIMED AT FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." THIS SLAP AT BBC IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO COVER FOR MOMENTS OF DOUBT IN IRANIAN REACTION TO BBC REPORT BUT PROBABLY ALSO REPRESENTS EXPRESSION OF PENT-UP IRANIAN IRE AT BBC REPORTING IN GENERAL, A CONSTANT THEME IN GOVT CIRCLES HERE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THIS INCIDENT WILL

HAVE RAMIFICATIONS ON STATUS OF RESIDENT BBC CORRESPONDENT  
WHITLEY WHO FILED THIS STORY.

3. IN SAME PRESS CONFERENCE, KHALATBARI SAID IRAN WILL  
CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AFGHANISTAN WITH NECESSARY ECONOMIC  
AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREE-  
MENT BETWEEN IRAN AND THE NEW AFGHAN GOVT ABOUT THE FORMS  
WHICH THIS ASSISTANCE MIGHT TAKE. KHALATBARI IS QUOTED  
AS SAYING: "ALTHOUGH WE PROMISED HELP TO THE FORMER GOVT  
OF AFGHANISTAN, WE NEVER TRIED TO DICTATE TO FORMER PRESIDENT  
DAOUD HOW WE WOULD PROVIDE THIS HELP. THIS POLICY WE WILL  
FOLLOW AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH THE GOVT OF AFGHANISTAN HAS  
CHANGED."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, BOUNDARY RIVERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TEHRAN06392  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 TEHRAN 6313  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Markings:**  
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